(b) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC), Government has decided to restructure the National Savings Organisation (NSO) with headquarters at Nagpur and 10 regional centres at Chandigarh, Delhi, Lucknow, Guwahati, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Nagpur & Jaipur with a reduced staff strength of 122 against the existing strength of 1191 officials. The location of these offices has been decided on the basis of small savings collections, concentration of agents in different States and an even distribution of these centres in the country. Madhya Pradesh would be covered by the regional centre at Nagpur.

(c) and (d) The re-structured set-up will not adversely affect any investor or small savings agents.

States implementing VAT

2722. SHRI C.P.THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of States willing to implement Value Added Tax;

(b) what is the number of States which have refused to implement Value Added Tax; and

(c) which States will sustain huge loss in implementing Value Added Tax?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The decision to implement State level Value Added Tax (VAT) system from 1st April, 2003 was a unanimous decision taken by all States and Union Territories. No State has formally informed the Central Government about its unwillingness to implement VAT. However, the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers on Sales Tax Reforms has fixed a meeting on 8th of April, 2003 to take decisions on several issues relating to VAT, including a revised date for the State to implement the VAT system.

(c) Accurate assessment of loss, if any, on account of introduction of VAT is possible only after its actual implementation by individual States.